

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 93 04:30:12 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #797
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 30 Jun 93 Volume 93 : Issue 797

Today's Topics:

 Any other ARE-60 HamLink users out there ?
 Buckmaster FCC database formats
 OPDX BULL??
 Radio for Modem Trade
 SUMMARY: Morse Training Techniques

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 93 00:28:46 PDT
From: RICHARD HAREL <RHAREL@FAB8.intel.com>
Subject: Any other ARE-60 HamLink users out there ?
To: info-hams-digest@ucsd.edu

Any ARE-60 HamLink users out there who would like to share ideas ?
For example, I hooked in a phone patch, a 4 pole relay and a touch tone
decoder to make it work either via the phone OR via a dualbander.
Also changed R10 to 100K to soften the level of the confirmation beeps.
Pretty neat to walk around Jerusalem with an Alinco DJ-580 and work
DX. The other day I spoke to someone in New Jersey while I was in an
elevator (4 km's from the remote base).
I'd also be interested in setting up a sched with other HF remote base
stations.

73,
Rich Harel
WB2JBS/4X1DA
Jerusalem

rharel@fab8%sc.intel.com

Date: 30 Jun 93 01:38:38 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!uwm.edu!msuinfo!netnews.upenn.edu!feith1!kd3bj!
chris@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Buckmaster FCC database formats
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

system@garlic.sbs.com (Tony Pelliccio) writes:

>... I'd like to hear about it since Buckmaster is being
>totally obnoxious when we inquire about the possibility of (GASP!)
>source-code so we can get it to run on a Unix Box. Grrrrrr... :(

And I was just about to call them up and ask the same question. Hmmmm?
How 'bout everybody on the net gives them a call, say, this Thursday!?

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73 de KD3BJ (Chris Nadovich, chris@flam.com)

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 1993 07:30:07 GMT
From: mcsun!news.funet.fi!funic!nokia.fi!ntc01.tele.nokia.fi!campos@uunet.uu.net
Subject: OPDX BULL??
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Where is the OPDX Bulletin at? I thought I saw it posted here almost every Monday? (At least I saw every Monday or so when I am in California at the University.. Not much DX info on this side of the world so I have to contend with the band conditions and really "go fishing" for DX on the bands. So far I have had some luck but I dont expect it to last to long with only a vertical and 1KW, hi.. If I am mistaken on the frequency of the OPDX bulletin, please let me now. (I have been check my newsgroups from here (RLOGIN back to California) and I havent' even seen it on that system) Anyway, thanks for reading this.

73 de Javier OH8/AH6MM 100Km south of the Arctic Circle!

replies: CAMPOS@ntcclu.ntc.nokia.com

QSL INFO:

OH8/AH6MM VIA KJ6BK (W6 BURO OK)

OH9/AH6MM VIA KJ6BK (W6 BURO OK)

OH0/AH6MM VIA WA6IET will be on air July 9th and 12th 1993

OJ0/AH6MM VIA WA6IET will be on air July 9th through 12th 1993

KH9 August 31-September 9th QSL VIA OKDXA

Date: 30 Jun 1993 02:37:48 -0400
From: news!news.world.net!speedway.net!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Radio for Modem Trade
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

First, I'd like to thank everyone who replied to my message. To save bandwidth, I'll be brief. I was able to fix my old modem, so I no longer need one. SO, please ignore my trade message. Thanks and peace.

Donald
w3

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"We work in the dark - we do what we can - we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art." - Henry James [donalddh@speedway.net]

Date: 30 Jun 1993 08:22:14 GMT
From: pipex!sunic!news.lth.se!pomona.tde.lth.se!sund@uunet.uu.net
Subject: SUMMARY: Morse Training Techniques
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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The thing that I have found most useful is to increase your wpm speed as soon as you start copying 50-60% of the text correctly. And then occasionally slow it back down to give yourself the satisfaction and encouragement of seeing your improvement.

Also I have found that when just learning the letters it was best just to do short sessions at a sitting so that you would not get discouraged. And once you have mastered the letters, numbers, and prosigns you can start doing longer sessions (20-30 minutes).

And if this is not obvious...try not to teach Morse by sight, unless all else has failed. When I was little I learned Morse code by sight from the Radio Shack walkie talkie that I had, and it took me the longest time not to do the translation in my head and just hear the letters and words.

I hope this helps and please summarize the responses you get to the net.

- Warren

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They put fifty of us in a classroom with a set of drill tapes. Each one of us had a key. We had four days to get up to 10 WPM and if we didn't we got transferred to the infantry and sent to Vietnam. This was very effective.

--scott

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"C'est un Nagra. C'est suisse, et tres, tres precis."

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Hi...I am still stuck around 18 WPM or so, so I'm not really an 'expert' in learning morse, but here's what I did. I went from zero to about 10 WPM

in trwo weeks by practicing with a computer playing files I got from documentation of other programs. I would set the speed high enough so I didn't get every character and thus improved. When I hit the brick wall at 10 WPM I took a suggestion from a ham on the internet and PUT THE PENCIL

DOWN. I started trying to copy only in my head, writing down only notes like the call sign and name of the sender. This got me easily past the 13 WPM

requirement here in the US, but when I get nervous (as for a test) I still write most every character down. Now that I am at the level of the W1AW bulletins, I can't write that fast, so I must copy in my head and write down

only the general drift of the message. I want to mention that actually copying morse on the radio helped as much or more than using the computer program. I'm not sure how to break through this latest barrier (18 WPM), but I am using a mac program (Morse Trainer) and just started looking at your program. I set the speed to 24+ WPM and am picking out characters and som

some words, so I think I'm on the right track. I would very much like to see

a trainer that allows "practice QSO's" with a computer. For example, I could

send a CQ and the Cmputer would answer or it would CQ and I could answer. I know some memory keyers and programs do this now.

Good Luck and thanks for writing for the MAC!

Tom
KJ5LT

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I used the following method:

- 0) Select a speed you know
- 1) plaintext (e.g. a usenet article) which uses all the letters/numbers/punct.
- 2) random letter/number groups - five per group
- 3) speed = speed + 2; goto 1.

The Gordon West cassette tapes here in the US follow this method.

73!

Perry Scott
AA0ET

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I am sending you the file of suggested learning techniques, in the hopes you might include some or all of it in your documentation. It is NOT copywritten, and I would really appreciate some feedback on how well the suggestions work for individuals. I try to modify and keep the list of suggestions current, so feedback is important.

That said, here is the file:

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Some time ago, I wrote this short piece to help a new wannabe ham who was having trouble learning the code, and have been adding to it and modifying it ever since. I am passing it on to you in the hope that you will find it useful.

Please help me out by giving me feedback and helping to make this document even better for the next people who ask for help and receive it.

- > About transitioning from dits and dahs to just associate sounds
- > with characters.
- > Does it come naturally, or is that something one has to actively
- > work on to get it?

Well, there are many different ways of teaching Morse Code. And, there

as many different tools and aids offered by well-meaning people as there are people who want to help. The sad (and difficult) part is that newcomers who want to learn the CW for an upgraded license must somehow navigate these "tools" and find ones that work, often without knowing enough about what they are trying to accomplish to make those decisions wisely.

You have access to the InterNet, and hence I am assuming you are computer-literate. I will further assume that somewhere you have access to an MS/DOS machine... if so, ftp the file for SuperMorse, version 3.16 from one of the sites and set it up, and try these suggestions for how to learn the Morse Code. When done this way, it really can be fun!

- After reading the documentation that comes with SuperMorse (about 60 pages of very well written information):

- 1) set the **character** speed to 23-25 words per minute.
This is way faster than you will be trying to copy at first, but if you chose a slower speed, you will be handicapping yourself for the balance of your hamming...learn the code ONCE, not again and again as you gain speed...from your very sketchy comments, I gather you have been trying to work the speed up slowly, and this means you are actually trying to learn a different set of sounds as the speed increases...which will slow your progress and become very frustrating.
- 2) Set the word speed (time between characters) so that it is 1 or 2wpm **faster** than you can copy solid, and keep it always a little **faster** than you can copy... This is how you drag yourself along and improve your abilities.
- 3) Use graph paper to copy CW. The blocks on the paper are VERY useful if you think of them in constructive ways: one of the beauties of CW is that one can miss a character, or even 2, and still catch the meaning of the message from context. When you copy and can not decipher a character, leave a blank "hole" on the graph paper -- you will probably easily fill it in later.
- 4) Learn to let go of any character you are unsure of. Avoid trying to be "perfect". You are a marvelous unreproducible unique human being. Perfect in the sense of your presence with a high power, perhaps, but **human** and fallible. Use that to your advantage! If you learn to let a character go when you do not recognize it, you will not likely miss the next one...if you focus on the one you missed, you will most likely miss several in a row, and that means a much larger "hole" in your copy, and greater difficulty in making a good copy. Use the graph paper to help by simply moving your

pencil to the next hole, with perhaps an underline to show you are aware if having missed a character. Mostly, do not "punish" yourself for missing a character...celebrate the ones you DO get!

- 5) Make the text you copy fun. With SuperMorse you can make up things (read e-mail for instance!) that are somewhat familiar, and yet quite strange in Morse Code! Fun is the key. I send my students model QSOs with some of the fun people I have met in almost 40 years of hamming..and tell jokes and make the practice fun. That is VERY important...to have fun with CW.
- 6) Keep your individual practice sessions short...say TEN MINUTES at a time. Three ten minute sessions will do more good and make for more progress than one hour long session. Besides, ten minute sessions are pretty easy to work into the day...blocking out an hour is far more difficult -- and does NOT work as well! ;!)
- 7) Throw away ALL the visual aids. CW is aural not visual, and you must hear the characters as characters and words. The visual aids will only get you to about 5-9wpm and then will leave you stuck until you can overcome those bad habits and forget about using a mental "table-lookup" model.
- 8) Think of CW as distinct sounds. Each character has a unique sound. There are even WORDS that you will recognize very quickly -- "the" "name" "73" have very distinctive sounds for the entire word. My own copy speed is slightly above 20wpm...say about 25wpm... and yet I can hear "73" at the end of a QSO at 40wpm! Easily! It is just a complete pattern that I recognize as "best regards" without any of the individual character or character elements to slow me down. This is actually more easily done than said: at first, when learning Morse Code, the student wants to make rapid progress. That is quite normal and to be used to help. Unfortunately, the ways some people use to measure this rapid progress are counter-productive: they will do *anything* to learn additional characters, even if that hampers their copy ability with the characters they know; and, they will try breaking the characters into sound elements to make individual character recognition better (at VERY slow speeds). This technique ONLY works at very slow speeds and will hinder your ability to progress to 13wpm or 20wpm... you will have to learn the code all over again at each new speed if you chose to break characters into distinct sound elements. Set the character speed at 23 or greater, and use the WORD speed to regulate how fast the overall code is sent.
- 9) Relax and make this enjoyable. Fable and myth make learning CW difficult enough without adding tension and regret to the list! ;!)

10) Most hams who passed a CW exam think it is necessary that everyone have as difficult a time as they did in learning, so they offer bad advice...not out of maliciousness, but out of ignorance. I teach CW and theory, and I really enjoy seeing my students go to exam sessions and blow the exams away!

I hope this will be helpful to you. Please PLEASE ask if you are confused or if you are having a problem. Everyone learns CW at a different rate, so avoid the natural human tendency to compare your progress with that of another ham. Go at your own pace, and have fun... and above all, Good Luck! I want to help, so please e-mail me if I can be of assistance.

-----8><-----

73 ES BEST OF LUCK -- HAVE FUN!
Jack, W4PPT

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root@jackatak.raider.net (Jack GF Hill)

-----jackatak.raider.net (615) 377-5980 -----

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Lars-

For what it's worth, perhaps the best thing that could be added to a morse training program would be coded to add QRM/QRN and fade to the 'transmission'. In my experience, the people who have learned code by listening to the radio, with its attendant noise, copy much better. Those who have learned simply from a program with nice crisp and clear dits and dahs seem to be more easily distracted when copying. When I passed the 20 wpm test, being used to static and fades on the radio, the sound of the tape recorder was so clear it presented few problems, and I passed the first time (even though I don't think I'm a strong 20). Good luck with your program.

73,
Paul Hansen AA1GJ

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End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #797
